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# Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**JAPAN** successfully launched its first military communications satellite yesterday that is designed to upgrade its network in the face of China's increasingly assertive maritime activity and North Korea's missile threat. The Kirameki-2 is the first of three satellites that will replace three civilian ones currently used by Japan's military.

### CHINA-PHILIPPINES

China and the Philippines have agreed on USD3.7 billion worth of projects to boost cooperation, state media cited a senior Chinese official as saying, highlighting the improvement in their formerly frosty relations.

More on p11

AP PHOTO



**CHINA-US** With his rejection of the Asian trade pact yesterday, President Donald Trump has tackled the first in a promised series of far-reaching policy changes that could give China room to assert itself as a regional leader and worsen strains over the South China Sea and Taiwan. "America first" foreign policy is raising questions about who, if anyone, will fill the void.

More on p10, 13

**EU-US** The European Union trade chief says the trade policies Trump has set out are "doomed to fail" and that the world's biggest trading bloc remains committed to open borders and economies. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said that most countries share the same vision of open trade and investments.

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## AL PLENARY

# Chan dodges lawmakers' questions on nepotism

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BLOOMBERG



## UK court rules May can't start Brexit without Parliament vote

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Julie Zhu

**Z**HU Congqian, a PhD student from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at the University of Macau (UM), recently won a national award for Best Young Screenwriter at the 2016 Next Idea Youth Screenplay Competition. The award was for a screenplay adapted from his own science-fiction story titled "The Autumn, the Dinosaur-man and I Left Behind."

The story emphasizes the importance of children learning how to face reality as they grow up.

Zhu, from mainland China, has been studying for five years in Macau and he participated in the competition as a representative of UM.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Can you tell us more about the winning story? What led you to participate in the competition and what did you expect from it?**

**Zhu Congqian (ZC) -** I have no experience in screenwriting, and I had never written one before. This screenplay is based on a novel I wrote in the past. I made some changes to it and rewrote it as a screenplay. The original book was published in mainland China earlier this year. Around June or July, I came to know about the existence of this competition and I decided to participate. I feel like it [the screenplay] was incredible. Based on my personal judgments, cartoons and screenplays about youth struggle, I don't usually reach the final rounds of such competitions. Normally, these topics might be awarded for their artistic achievement, or given excellence awards. This is why I feel really happy.

**Q&A ZHU CONGQIAN  
PHD STUDENT, WRITER**

## 'Macau draws a lot of attention to the cultural industry'



**MDT - Where does your screenwriting hobby come from and what kind of stories do you like to create?**

**ZC -** When I was little, my grades were not that good. My world sounded safer when I imagined it rather than living in it for real. I started writing when

I went to university, having started by writing poems and literature reviews. Poems are [for me] too formalized. I like writing children's novels or books for young adults [...] I [also] prefer to construct a realistic world in my literature which can reflect reality itself.

**MDT - Is there anything in your life that changed after you won the prize?**

**ZC -** Some things changed. Winning the competition provided me with many opportunities. There are a few mainland media companies looking for my cooperation. However, awarded

stories need more time to be produced, and need a full [production] plan. [I would] first choose some media and drawing companies which relatively suit the market best in order to start writing screenplays with them. No companies from Macau have reached me yet.

**MDT - What do you think of Macau's potential if it wants to develop its film and television industries?**

**ZC -** I think Macau has blessed advantages. The city draws a lot of attention to the cultural industry. In turn, the gaming industry has a natural connection with US companies. Macau's actors and actresses have a more southern specialty, and Macau's acting industry has communicated relatively more with Hong Kong. Its location is an obvious advantage.

**MDT - How do you expect Chinese films and television to compete in the global market?**

**ZC -** I am not worried about that. One needs to admit that Asian culture has inspired film and television products that seemingly cannot be accepted by Western audiences. If you look at the market from the perspective of Western audiences, [Western films and television programs] have their own stable market.

A film by local director Hong Heng Fai won the Best Short Film Award at the 13th China Independent Film Festival, the latest in the production's string of local and foreign awards.

Hong was present to receive the prize for his 20-minute production, "Crash," which took home the gold in the festival's competition section for short fiction films.

The film tells the story of a man, "Choi," in his

fifties, who finds himself and his mother lost in the new century. Built around the themes of the internet and reality, the story explores ethical issues and "digitalization" in modern times.

This latest award for "Crash" follows the Jury's Commendation Award (Short Film) at the 10th Macau Inter-

national Film and Video Festival – Macau Indies and the Best Film Prize of the 16th South Taiwan Film Festival.

"Crash" was also nominated for the Best Live Action Short Film of the 53rd Golden Horse Awards and selected in the 32nd International Short Film Festival Berlin and the Hong Kong

Independent Film Festival 2017.

Hong has been involved in the performing arts for more than a decade. He is known for producing short films, including "Caged" and "In Memory of Her," both of which were also nominated at the Macau International Film and Video Festival.

## Award-winning film clinches another prize



Hong Heng Fai receives the prize

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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## AL PLENARY

# Sonia Chan dodges lawmakers' questions on nepotism



RENATO MARQUES

Sonia Chan pictured yesterday at the AL

## Renato Marques

**T**HE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, dodged lawmakers' questions at the Legislative Assembly yesterday regarding her alleged influence over former top prosecutor Ho Chio Meng and whether this resulted in the hiring of at least one of Chan's relatives.

Ng Kuok Cheong and Pereira Coutinho both queried the secretary on how the government would act to prevent such cases of nepotism and personal favoring from happening again.

"Regarding my case, I've made a public clarification already," Chan replied, adding, "The CCAC [Commission Against Corruption] has also received a complaint that is under investigation, hence it is not convenient and I should not report to that case."

Chan 'shielded' herself behind her prior statement in order to avoid replying to any questions, even those with a generalist scope, and based her reply on the recruitment laws and regula-

tions as well as the rights and duties of civil servants.

The lawmakers persisted.

**I'm not pleased at all with your answer. I didn't ask to know how civil servants are recruited.**

NG KUOK CHEONG

"I'm not pleased at all with your answer. I didn't ask to know how civil servants are recruited. What I wanted you to tell me is how to prevent that such actions from high ranked officials," Ng said. "The phenomena has already been proved by the actions of the two Secretaries [the current and former]. The government should regulate these acts to prevent a boycott to the access of jobs in the administration. Do you have any measure to

tackle this?" Ng questioned, and further suggested that the secretary should publicly apologize for a situation that has "affected the image of the administration." Pereira Coutinho also regretted that the secretary had not apologized and advised that she resign.

"If I were you, I'd have [of-fered] my resignation. Instead you are pushing the problems for the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau [SAFP]," said Coutinho. He added, "Ng Kuok Cheong asked you three simple questions, please respond if you please," and remarked that what is at issue in this case are "conflicting interests" that could be solved with a declaration "such as that existing in both Hong Kong and Taiwan."

Gabriel Tong made a short remark to say; "[Whether] we should discuss or not the details since the case has entered in CCAC [is also] a matter that deserves discussion."

As for the reply to Coutinho's spoken enquiry, Chan questioned if it was necessary to reply since her response would be the same as

she provided for Ng, before she followed with the reading of a similar reply document.

Coutinho remarked that according to the news aired from the previous day, this case [involving Sonia Chan and Florinda Chan] was "just the tip of an iceberg," as reports stated at least another 14 similar cases are emerging all related to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

In his follow-up questions Coutinho said that different issues shouldn't be amalgamated. "The CCAC has its duties and is investigating but how about the government? Keep the arms crossed without doing anything? There isn't a need for disciplinary action?" he asked, pointing out that if the case had occurred with an inferior ranking official he was certain that

such action would already be in process. Coutinho called once more, like Ng, for a clarification from the secretary on how to prevent future cases like these.

As such questions remained unanswered Ng decided to take a different approach and direct the questions to the director of the SAFP, Kou Peng Kuan, questioning him if the services had opened an internal inquiry.

In the reply Kou did not add much to the discussion either, remarking only on the competencies and constant efforts of the SAFP to improve its accountability regimes.

Lawmakers Leong Veng Chai and Au Kam San also made remarks. The first noted that such a case is a "bad example for the youngsters and the new generations," and asked, "How are we going to clean that image?"

Au reaffirmed the need to "close the loopholes" that are proven to exist by the referred cases, and urged the secretary to steer away from commonplace answers and start to address the problem from the point-of-view of how to solve it.

## Gov't wants to expand territory southwards



RENATO MARQUES

**A** recent report from the Policy Research Office (GEP) on a so-called "4th Space" of the MSAR, presented last December to the Urban Planning Council, grabbed the attention of lawmaker Si Ka Lon. Si questioned the government about such a plan during yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary session.

The spoken enquiry sought clarification regarding the government's intentions on this matter. In the reply of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário acknowledged the existence of such a project which was to be included in the secretariat's biggest task, the Master Plan, as mentioned by Raimundo do Rosário.

Rosário also mentioned that such an idea is a part of the long-term future planning of the territory that takes into account the territory's role within a more comprehensive regional plan.

For more details, the Secretary delegated further explanations to the representative of the GEP, Ma I Kin.

With noted difficulty, Ma tried to explain that for now the "4th Space" is a bit of an "abstract thing," that is still in a conceptual state. Still, he noted that it "will be a space where the population can live."

In response to the question of where exactly it is going to be located, Ma remarked: "There isn't a full conclusion yet but the studies indicate that we will develop at [the south part] of Coloane Island in a first phase and potentially expand to [the] west." He noted that such a project is not "in the hands of the MSAR" since there is a need to develop "lots of works," which will necessarily be in cooperation with the Central Government.

"The descendants [of the current residents] are the ones that will enjoy this idea," Ma remarked. He unveiled that such a place should be possibly dedicated to "technologies and more advanced industries, the financial sector and quality tourism" and remarked on the idea of "preparing the future" of Macau.

## ARTS

# Martins showcases Macau inspired artworks



**CASA** de Portugal opened a painting exhibition yesterday at its premises titled "Observations - Manuela Martins."

The exhibition will feature 26 paintings. According to the artist, each is an exploration of her own reflections on Macau.

The Portuguese artist lived in Macau in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Born in Lisbon in 1932, Martins graduated from the School of Fine Arts of Lisbon. She subse-

quently dedicated herself to the teaching of Drawing and History of Art.

The 84-year-old Martins has produced paintings on Mozambique, Portugal and Macau, as they are all regions which she considered to be inspiring places during her career.

Since the artist cannot attend the opening ceremony today, her two sons will represent her.

One of them, Rui Calçada Bastos, told the Times on Monday

that the exhibition is mainly about Martin's observations of Macau.

"Basically these are paintings that my mom did about Macau because she lived in Macau in the late 80s and 90s," said Bastos.

"She came back [to Macau] in 2009 so she did some paintings [while] using photography [as an aid]."

Martins adores the territory, which inspired her to continually create works relating to the region.

According to the organizers, the artist has held six solo exhibitions in Macau, apart from her exhibitions in Portugal and Mozambique.

She was also invited to participate in a collective exhibition in 1990, titled the "VII Macau Global Artists in Senado Square."

"Observations - Manuela Martins" opens today at 6:30 p.m.

Supported by the Orient Foundation and sponsored by Macau Foundation, the exhibition will run until February 4. LV

## IC holds two art exhibitions in Anim'Arte



**CO-ORGANIZED** by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macau Artist Society, the "Local Ginger - Cenozoic Graffiti Art Exhibition" and "Impression of Macau - Art Exhibition of Andre Lui" are being held at the Lakeside Gallery in the Anim'Arte Nam Van area.

Held in the S1 room, "Local Ginger - Cenozoic Graffiti Art Exhibition" features the works of local graffiti artist PIBG and the graffiti creators of the new generation.

According to the IC, PIBG is the forerunner of local graffiti and his most recognized paintings are of human characters and animals in an expressive humoristic style with bright and contrasting colors.

This exhibition is dedicated to street art, displaying the strong personal style of graffiti artists of the new generation.

Meanwhile, the "Impression

of Macau - Art Exhibition of Andre Lui" is being held in the S2 room, featuring more than 20 paintings by local artist Lui Chak Keong.

Lui has been producing depictions of Lou Lim Ieoc Garden since 2006.

In addition to his paintings of the garden, this exhibition also displays his quick sketches of the region's World Heritage sites and Nam Van.

Liu expects to present the landscape of Macau through the years in this exhibition, which combines traditional Chinese gardens, the Historic Center of Macau integrated with Chinese and Western cultures and the new and old Nam Van area.

The "Local Ginger - Cenozoic Graffiti Art Exhibition" will be held until April 6, while the "Impression of Macau - Art Exhibition of Andre Lui" will be on until February 20.

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## GAMING

## London event draws interest from Macau



**A**N international gaming event will be held in London next month involving several Macau-based companies. The award-winning event "ICE Totally Gaming" will be hosted at London's ExCeL venue for exhibitions and conferences between February 7 and 9.

Among the Macau-based participants are Aruze Gaming Macau Ltd., gaming magazine Inside Asian Gaming, and the Macao Gaming Show. According to organizers, there will be up to 500 exhibitors at the event, one-quarter of which will be first-time participants.

Organizers state that "ICE Totally Gaming" is the only business-to-business gaming event in the world that brings together both the online and offline gaming sectors.

Seminars will be held at the event covering topics such as market growth and stability, diversity and leadership in gaming and eSports. There will also be region specific se-

minars on Japan, India, Africa and Latin America.

Last year's edition was attended by more than 28,500 visitors, claims organizer Clarion Events citing an independent audit, which marked a record-high for the event. There were organizations present from some 150 nations.

"Despite the continued program of mergers and acquisitions taking place in the industry, ICE continues to grow both in terms of the net floor space it occupies and the number of exhibiting companies which choose London as the place to launch products and services to an international audience," said Kate Chambers, managing director of Clarion's Gaming Division, according to a press release.

"We invited the world of gaming to enter the 'Gaming Technopolis' and they came – in their thousands," she added, commenting on last year's event.

# Almost 400 void land plots



**T**HERE are 390 spare land plots on the Macau Peninsula that are currently not being used, according to the latest survey issued by the Macau General Union of the Neighborhood Associations (known as "Kai Fong") regarding the present circumstances of the city's land usage.

The survey was conducted during last August and December, with 495 locations across the territory included in the research. The survey results found that the current total of 390 spare land plots on the Macau Peninsula are divided as follows: 295 within the central district, 39 within the southern district, and 56 within the northern district.

According to "Kai Fong," 169 of the land plots are private and 19 are public, while the rest are either lease plots or unspecified.

Most noticeably, 293 plots, of which many are located within the central district, have environmental issues. These plots are littered with weeds, debris and trash, and are damaged by parking.

In the central and southern districts, the problem is mainly related to weeds and debris, while in the northern district it is parking issues. Most of these

problems occur on unspecified lands, but also private ones.

Additionally, the survey compares present land conditions to those in previous years, dating back to 2013. With respect to that year, the report indicates that Macau had 410 spare land plots.

The latest report informs that 269 out of this 410 remain undeveloped, 47 are currently under construction, and 80 have completed their developments.

Moreover, the 2013 survey divided that year's spare land plots into two categories based on whether or not they had problems. Just 100 of the 410 from that year had no problems. In regard to those that did, the association discovered that they were either environmental or hygiene-related issues.

When analyzing the results regarding land plots surveyed back to 2013, privately-owned plots comprise the majority, with a total of 187 lands.

According to the Kai Fong, the survey's results stem from combined information obtained from the Cartography and Cadastre Bureau (DSCC), Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Government Printing Bureau (IO), as well as other departments.



## Macau blogger launches crowd-funding campaign

João Botas, the author of several books on the history of Macau and the "Macau Antigo" online blog, has launched a crowd-funding campaign to cover the costs of producing his latest work, a biography on Macau polymath Manuel da Silva Mendes.

According to a statement released by Botas, potential donors can contribute any amount starting from 1 euro. With a donation of 5 euros, the benefactor will have their name printed in the list of the book's supporters. For 10 euros, donors will also receive an autographed book, while 15 euros will grant a 50 percent discount on the purchase of additional copies of the book up to a maximum of three. In accordance with the rules of the company managing the crowd-funding campaign, the appeal will only be considered a success if a total of 2,000 euros (about MOP17,160) is raised before the deadline. If this does not happen, the donations will be returned.

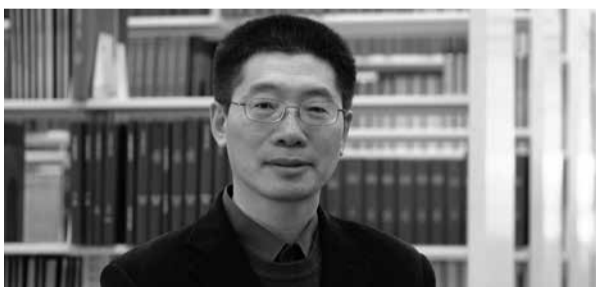
## Female police officer reports police husband

A female police officer from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) filed a report to the police after having been pushed and injured by her husband, who is also a PSP officer. The victim submitted a report to the PSP on January 16, saying that she and her husband had quarreled and that her husband had pushed her during the fight, causing her to become injured. Following investigations, the Judiciary Police (PJ) defined the case as assault, as opposed to domestic violence. The victim decided to withdraw her report during the PJ's investigation.

## Woman loses USD50,000 in online scam

A local woman lost USD50,000 after falling for an online scam. The woman met a self-proclaimed male Taiwanese resident through a mobile app last October. Just one month later, in November, the suspect told the woman that he was a consultant in a big Taiwanese investment company, and asked her to buy financial products from his company. The woman then transferred, in four installments, a total of USD50,000 to a Hong Kong bank account that the suspect had given her the details of. One week after the transfer was made, she lost contact with the suspect.

## UM professor joins academic journal



Richard Ye

**C**HAIR professor of pharmacology and the deputy director of the Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences at the University of Macau (UM), Richard Ye, has been chosen as the new associate editor of "The FASEB Journal."

In this role he will manage all aspects of the peer review and submission decision processes, in collaboration with the journal's current group of associate editors.

Prior to joining UM, Ye was the Zhiyuan Chair Professor and dean of the

School of Pharmacy at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

According to a UM press release, research in Ye's lab focuses on the mechanisms by which cell surface receptors such as G protein-coupled receptors and toll-like receptors activate innate immune cells and trigger a variety of host-defense actions.

"We are delighted to bring Richard Ye aboard, both to further enrich and diversify the various research domains of our associate editor tier, but

also to help us establish a foothold for "The FASEB Journal" in China," said Journal editor-in-chief Dr Thoru Pederson from the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

"We have always received numerous fine papers from Chinese laboratories, but given the tremendous expansion of research institutions underway in the PRC, Dr Ye's appointment is timely indeed."

The FASEB Journal is published by the Federation of the American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

It is the world's most cited biology journal, according to the Institute for Scientific Information, and has been recognized by the Special Libraries Association as one of the top 100 most influential biomedical journals of the past century.

## IC calls for young musicians to apply



**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is calling for applicants for the "35th Macau Young Musicians Competition," which will be held between July 22 and August 3.

Applications will be open from March 20 to 26.

This edition of the competition, dedicated to pianists, features 18 categories with elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. Applicants must be Macau residents and must have been born in or after 1996.

A first, second and third prize will be awarded in each category, as well as merit certificates. All first

prize winners in the solo categories or competitors recommended by the jury will be eligible to participate in the "Special Prizes Competition", competing for the "Best Performance in Elementary Category", "Best Performance in Intermediate Category" and "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize".

All first prize winners in the ensemble category will also be eligible to compete for the "Best Ensemble Performance Prize".

Applications can be made online, followed by payment and document submission.

Supporting documents and an application fee of MOP100 per category must be submitted at the bureau's Tap Seac Square premises between March 24 and 26.

# Civil Protection operation to run 24/7



Julie Zhu

**T**HE Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly met to discuss a law bill regarding the merging of the Security Forces Coordination Office (GCSEG) and the Unitary Police Services (SPU).

Those in attendance included the commissioner-general of the SPU, Ma Io Kun. Chan Chak Mo, the chairman of the committee, was available after the meeting's end to talk to the media and provide details regarding the matter discussed.

Currently, there are 75 people working for SPU and 27 working for GCSEG.

According to Chan, following the merging of the two departments, the resulting number of employees will remain the same as the current total of the two departments.

The government representatives explained to the Committee that, after the merge, any employee can return to their old position, if they decide to do so.

The merge will not change any policies, including for promotion of employees.

Currently, there exists a Civil Protection Operational Centre belonging to GCSEG. "They hope the center can operate 24 hours [per day], in the future, to immediate-

ly detect emergencies," said Chan, who also said that the Committee was concerned about whether the merged SPU could handle the expected number of issues.

Twenty-seven people presently work for the center. The lawmakers questioned whether the future SPU would be able to run operations concerning civil protection issues smoothly.

In Chan's words, the government responded by stating that once the restructuring of the police force is complete, it will suggest an amendment to the laws regarding SPU's structure and role.

"Related bills, in fact, have been forwarded to the Chief Executive Council," Chan disclosed.

A Civil Protection and Coordination Centre will be added to the future SPU, and it will be managed by an extra director assistant.

Two offices, including a computer and information

technology division, and a news and public relations division, will both become official divisions after the merger is complete.

Chan said that no schedule has been drafted regarding the future 24-hour civil protection operation.

According to Chan, in order to accomplish said purpose, the police force has already found a place five times the size of the current Civil Protection Operational Centre.

Chan also said that the 24-hour operation will be established soon after the related laws are passed.

The Civil Protection Operational Centre is currently located in the Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau (DS-FSM) building at Calçada dos Quartéis.

Commissioner-general Ma said last year that the police force would suggest either expanding their current facilities or building new ones for the center.

## Prices in Macau rise 2.37 percent y-o-y



**P**RICES in Macau in 2016 recorded an average annual increase of 2.37 percent. According to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC),

this upward movement was primarily due to a rise in the price of parking permits, eating out, cars and tobacco, as well as the costs of buildings man-

agement services.

DSEC reported that these five categories accounted for 1.77 percentage points of the increase in prices recorded last year.

However, the average inflation rate recorded in 2016 was the lowest since at least 2011, when it stood at 5.81 percent, before rising and falling again in the following years to 4.56 percent in

2015.

Annual inflation ended 2016 with a 1.44 percent rise. The figure was 0.09 percentage points less compared to the value recorded, for example, in November, due to a rise in prices in the categories of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Education and Transport.

The Consumer Price Index increased by 0.17 percent in December compared to November, due to higher prices of Clothing and Footwear, Recreation and Culture, and Transport.

MDT/Macauhub

## Scott Kreeger takes up post at GEG

**F**ORMER SLS Las Vegas President and Chief Operating Officer Scott Kreeger has moved to Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) in Macau to manage the development of the resort's Phase 4 expansion.

Kreeger, who formally left SLS Las Vegas on December 31 after more than two years at the resort, will join a host of other former executives from the North American

gaming city, including GEG's Chief Operating Officer Kevin Kelley and its president, Michael Mecca.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Kreeger used his knowledge of Las Vegas gaming trends to strengthen business at SLS. He was also responsible for ending the resort's partnership with retailer Fred Segal and for closing the hotel's buffet and Ku Noodle res-

taurant.

Kreeger was leading the resort when its owner, Stockbridge Capital Partners, signed a deal with now-partner W Resorts. At that point, W Resorts had been trying to gain a foothold on the Las Vegas casino strip for years, so the partnership signified a major success. Kreeger then described the deal as necessary for boosting business at the resort.

Kreeger spent more than 20 years in Las Vegas with MGM Resorts International and Station Casinos.

### corporate bits

#### MGM HOSTS CNY PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



MGM began celebrating Chinese New Year through "Haircut for Love" and "Spring Clean for Love" programs, involving 365 senior citizens from Asilo de Santa Maria and Centro de Dia Brilho da Vida in mid-January. For the sixth year, MGM visi-

ted Centro de Dia Brilho da Vida of Caritas Macau to clean the homes of senior citizens, stated the gaming operator in a press release.

On January 20, MGM's senior executives led a team of 160 volunteers to Fai Chi Kei Social

Housing Unit and cleaned 220 homes, in a bid to welcome the Year of the Rooster with the senior citizens.

MGM prepared its homemade Chinese New Year Red Banners (Fai Chun) and placed them on doors and windows as decorations. In addition, a Goodie Bag with a specially designed MGM 9th Anniversary towel set was given to every home.

For the fourth year running, the gaming operator also hosted the "Haircut for Love" program on January 9, 10 and 12.

A total of 30 volunteer haircut team members went out to two local elderly centers, Asilo de Santa Maria and Centro de Dia Brilho da Vida, and provided complimentary haircuts to 145 senior citizens, including those with health issues and mobility impairment.

IKEA urges customers who bought a "mysingsö" beach chair before February 2017 to return it to any IKEA store or Merchandise Pickup Point for a full refund, or to any IKEA store for replacement.

After washing the fabric seat it is possible to re-assemble the chair incorrectly, leading to the risks of falling or trapping a finger.

According to the company, IKEA has received five incident reports involving the beach chair collapsing during use due to incorrect re-assembly.

All five reports included injuries to fingers that required medical attention.

The reported injuries happened in Finland, Germany, USA, Denmark and Australia. "Mysingsö" beach chair ori-

#### IKEA RECALLS 'MYSINGSÖ' BEACH CHAIR



ginally went through the relevant mechanical, fabric and chemical tests with approved results.

Upon receiving the reports of injuries, a full investigation was initiated.

This led to an improved design to further mitigate the risks of incorrect re-assembly and injuries. The updated chair is set to be available in IKEA stores from February 2017.

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Jerome Pugmire

**B**ERNIE Ecclestone's reign of Formula One ended after Liberty Media officially completed its takeover of the series this week, and named American Chase Carey as the new chief executive.

Carey acted quickly by naming former Mercedes team principal Ross Brawn as managing director of motorsports, a move that was expected to be widely welcomed as the series prepares for rule changes it hopes will win back disgruntled fans.

It also brought the curtain down on Ecclestone's long and often controversial governance of F1.

In recent years particularly, issues were regularly raised about the top-heavy distribution of wealth in the series and fears raised about the future of famed races such as the Italian Grand Prix and the German GP — which has struggled to host races — in the face of rising track fees.

Ecclestone was criticized for overlooking historic popular races to develop new frontiers in F1 such as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Russia, and Azerbaijan, which held its first race last year.

F1 has been indecisive recently, with rule changes imposed and reversed, such as the double points rule on the final day of the 2014 season, and unpopular changes to qualifying that were quickly scrapped.

The overly strong influence of a handful of big teams and Ecclestone in strategy group discussions was seen by many observers as iron-fisted and undemocratic, as well as being unfair on smaller teams like cash-strapped Manor, which is battling against administration.

The takeover on Monday came five days after motor sport's governing body approved of F1 being sold to Liberty Media, a U.S. company that invests in entertainment

# Liberty completes F1 takeover; Ecclestone replaced by Carey



Bernie Ecclestone

and sports. The transaction price represents an enterprise value for F1 of USD8 billion and an equity value of \$4.4 billion, Liberty said in a statement.

The 86-year-old Ecclestone remains on board as an honorary chairman and will be an F1 adviser, according to Liberty.

"I'm proud of the business that I built over the last 40 years and all that I have achieved with Formula One," Ecclestone said in Liberty's statement.

As a TV executive, Carey helped to launch Fox Sports and Fox-News, and took over from Rupert Murdoch as CEO of News Corporation. Carey praised Ecclestone.

"[F1] is what it is today because of him and the talented team of executives he has led, and he will always be part of the F1 family," he said.

Last September, Liberty Me-

dia Corp., which is controlled by 75-year-old tycoon John Malone, ended years of uncertainty about the ownership of F1 when it first announced plans for a takeover. Last week, the FIA's World Motor Sport Council approved the change of control of Delta Topco, F1's holding company, from investment fund CVC Capital Partners to Liberty Media Group.

With Liberty's shareholders having approved the move, an FIA green light was the last regulatory step before the sale. Although Carey was expected to replace Ecclestone, the buyout came sooner than expected and some way ahead of the new F1 season, which starts on March 26 with the Australian GP.

Liberty's takeover was timely, with the series poised for a shakeup.

Changes such as wider tires, car

design, louder engines, and more overtaking opportunities are set to make F1 more exciting again in a bid to win back a large chunk of unhappy fans amid flagging attendances at some races.

"There is an enormous opportunity to grow the sport," Liberty president Greg Maffei said. "We have every confidence that Chase, with his abilities and experience, is the right person to achieve this."

Retired world champion Nico Rosberg said the time was right for a new era.

"Bernie, mega job! But a change has been overdue," Rosberg tweeted. "Mr Carey, all the best in making our sport awesome again."

The acutely ambitious and driven Ecclestone transformed F1 into a multi-billion business with huge glitz.

He started in the 1970s primarily negotiating with circuits before taking up a position of power as the commercial rights holder in the 1990s, massively increasing the series' TV exposure.

But he overlooked social media, an area Liberty has expertise and willingness to use. In the short term, Liberty has the capacity to make some changes to the calendar — such as an extra race in the U.S. — promotion, and digital media coverage.

Other, more in-depth changes such as scheduling of race weekends, rules governing car design, and fairer distribution of revenue to teams are governed by the Concorde Agreement between the owners, the teams, and the FIA. That agreement runs through the end of 2020 so big changes could

not be made before then.

As well as contracting Brawn, Carey has hired Sean Bratches — formerly of ESPN — as managing director.

Brawn has more than 40 years of experience in engineering and management, helping Ferrari win 11 world titles and seven with Williams and Benetton. Perhaps his greatest achievement was winning the 2009 F1 title against all odds with his own BrawnGP team — the Honda F1 team he rescued and renamed — with British driver Jenson Button producing the season of his life.

Brawn, who helped develop the career of seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, then helped Mercedes develop the car that won three straight titles from 2014-16.

"I've enjoyed consulting with Liberty Media these last few months and I'm looking forward to working with Chase, Sean, and the rest of the Formula One team to help the evolution of the sport," Brawn said.

Bratches is credited as one of ESPN's most influential leaders, with over 27 years of experience, most recently as executive vice president of sales and marketing.

With the completion of the acquisition, the Liberty Media Group will shortly be renamed the Formula One Group.

Liberty Media expects the group name change and the symbol change to take place this week.

F1 will remain based in London, and Maffei will be deputy chairman of the board of F1.

Ecclestone is expected to attend some races this season. AP

## Dubai Airport sees toughest year in a decade as demand slows

Deena Kamel Yousef

**D**UBAI International Airport predicted passenger growth this year will be the slowest in a decade, underscoring the challenges facing the aviation industry in the region after years of aggressive expansion.

The Persian Gulf hub expects to lure 89 million travelers, 6.4 percent fewer than in 2016, it said in a statement yesterday. That's the weakest pace in 10 years, excluding 2014, when runway repairs limited takeoffs and landings for more than two months. Traffic gains last

year slowed to 7.2 percent from 10.7 percent in 2015, giving a total of 83.6 million customers, as global economies faltered and lower oil prices clipped Middle Eastern travel.

Dubai International still outperformed many rival hubs in Europe, where a spate of terrorist attacks weighed heavily on numbers. Anticipating future capacity constraints, the sheikhdom is spending USD36 billion on a new hub where flagship carrier Emirates is due to shift flights. Chief Executive Officer Paul Griffiths said he

remains confident of overtaking Atlanta Hartfield-Jackson and Beijing Capital to become the world's busiest airport in coming years.

"The growth is very, very significant compared to other airports around the world, about three times the average rate of growth for our competitors," Griffiths said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. "Our aircraft movements aren't growing quite so quickly mainly because of capacity constraints and slot constraints."

Emirates, which operates the majority of flights in

Dubai, told Bloomberg last month that 2016 was "not a good year" as oil executives and bankers reined in travel, terrorism dented demand and regions including sub-Saharan Africa saw travel slump, adding that 2017 "could be even flatter."

In 2015, Dubai International climbed to the third spot in the world rankings, behind Atlanta, the main base for Delta Air Lines Inc., and Beijing. The Chinese hub added 5 percent more passengers in 2016, for a total of 94.3 million, while Atlanta, which lured 101 million people in 2015, has



yet to report figures.

Capacity at Dubai International is scheduled to reach 118 million travelers annually by 2023, with the expansion to be funded mainly from retail concessions so that user fees are kept down. Improvements to travel flows and the quality of service are regarded as vital since almost 50 percent of the people who change planes at the airport could use another hub, Griffiths

said.

Dubai's new airport, Al Maktoum International, will expand capacity to 26 million passengers by the end of the third quarter of this year, from 7 million now, Griffiths said. The next phase of growth will see that jump to 120 million by 2025, when Emirates will move its operations. Ultimately, total capacity is slated to reach 240 million passengers. Bloomberg



# Alibaba raises forecast as Chinese consumers continue to spend

Lulu Yilun Chen

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd. raised its full-year sales forecast after quarterly results beat estimates, as Chinese spending stays strong and the company wrings revenue from fledgling areas such as cloud computing, entertainment and search.

China's biggest e-commerce company increased its projection for fiscal 2017 revenue growth to 53 percent, from 48 percent previously. That may help assuage investors concerned that a deceleration in the world's second-largest economy is curtailing Alibaba's main online commerce business.

Despite a fairly stagnant user base of about 443 million, Alibaba benefited from a record Nov. 11 Singles' Day spending spree, and gained a larger share of online advertising from rivals such as Baidu Inc. It also more than doubled sales from cloud computing in the December quarter. As transaction growth slows, Alibaba is generating more revenue from merchants by selling them services to draw in buyers, and expanding its Netflix-like entertainment arm.

"Investors will have a huge reaction to the revenue forecast raise," said Ray Zhao, a Shenzhen-based analyst at Guotai Junan Securities Co. "The growth is mostly coming from the strong performance in Alibaba's digital entertainment platforms, its ability to make money from cloud computing."

Chinese retail e-commerce revenue jumped 42 percent to 40.8 billion yuan in the quarter, driven by strong demand for the marketing services that merchants pay for. About 80 percent of that came from mobile platforms, where sales climbed 73 percent. The company is now also expanding into traditional retail, experimenting with technology to revamp a fragmented USD4.8 trillion market.

For now, the company still derives most of its business from its home market. But Alibaba is aiming to attract a million small businesses in the U.S. onto its platform within five years, hoping those entities will create one new job each. The initiative was brought up by Chairman Jack Ma in a meeting with Donald Trump in January, as a means to display goodwill



Jack Ma

after the online emporium was again labeled a "notorious market" awash in counterfeits by the U.S. Trade Representative.

Ma said as early as in 2015 that the company wants more than 50 percent of revenue from outside of China. He also said in January last year he wanted to serve 10 million small businesses abroad. That international drive entails spending on marketing.

Revenue from digital media and entertainment rose almost four-fold to 4.1 billion yuan, bolstered by its online video service Youku and search through UCWeb.

Alibaba's cloud unit remained one of its fastest revenue drivers, supporting the more than \$17 billion of sales that flowed through its platforms during Singles' Day. Revenue from the business more than doubled to 1.8 billion yuan last quarter as paying customers rose to 765,000.

Like Amazon.com Inc.'s AWS, the cloud service emerged from the enormous computational power needed to handle millions of online shopping transactions. But unlike its U.S. counterpart, it enjoys home-field advantage in a vast Chinese market where internet-based computing is still novel to many enterprises.

Cloud could account for about 5 percent of sales this financial year, according to Evan Zhou, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG.

The company this month struck a deal to sponsor the Olympic Games through 2028 that is said to be worth \$800 million. Alibaba will provide online computing services and data analytics for the sporting contest, while creating a marketplace for official merchandise and developing an online video channel for viewers in China.

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Josh Lederman

**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump's pursuit of an "America first" foreign policy is raising questions about who, if anyone, will fill the void if the U.S. relinquishes its traditional global leadership role. China and Russia are among the aspirants for greater economic and military influence, while an ambivalent Germany could emerge as the West's moral compass.

For generations, the U.S. has largely set the terms for the global economy, policed international security threats and spearheaded the response to crises like Ebola and Haiti's earthquake. But after sweeping into office with an isolationist-tinted message rooted in the idea the U.S. needs to refocus on itself, Trump has said and done little to dispel the notion that he wants the rest of the world solve its own problems.

In his inaugural address, Trump said the U.S. for too long has been invested in other countries' industries, militaries, borders and infrastructure while letting its own fall into "disrepair and decay."

"That is the past," Trump said.

In one of his first acts, Trump formally withdrew the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a project launched under President George W. Bush and negotiated by President Barack Obama to set trade rules with Asia and counter China's growing economic influence.

Trump said he was doing a "great thing" for U.S. workers by tearing it up. But Sen. John McCain, a fellow Republican, said the withdrawal "abdicates U.S. leadership in Asia to China."

China isn't the only country that could profit from U.S. retrenchment. In their own ways, Russia and Germany also could stake a claim to a greater global role. But no one can simultaneously match America's economic, military and moral might, and a more isolationist U.S. could mean a power vacuum.

"There's no country or collection of countries that can do what the U.S. has done for the last half-century," said Jon Alterman, a former State Department official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's partly a question of resources and capacity, and it's partly a question of ambition."

"A huge number of things will simply not be done," he said.

While U.S. rivals like China and Russia would relish the opportunity to try to replace the United States, many countries in Asia, Europe and elsewhere are fretting the prospect of an American retreat. Even Germany is unsettled about being increasingly looked to as a moral example.

China, which has been invest-

CHINA, RUSSIA?

# If Trump ends America's world leadership, who will step up?



The White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus watches as President Trump shows off an executive order to withdraw the U.S. from the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact

“There’s no country or collection of countries that can do what the U.S. has done for the last half-century.”

JON ALTERMAN  
FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIAL

ing billions in Africa and Latin America to curry influence in the developing world, could become an increasingly dominant economic power. It already is aggressively pursuing a multi-country trade deal that would appear the likeliest alternative

to TPP, a scenario Obama's administration had warned would let China "write the rules" and lead to worse labor and environmental standards.

Beijing has used Trump's inauguration as an opportunity to ridicule America's democracy and tout its own communist system as superior. And many of China's neighbors share its fears about Trump's threats to trigger a "trade war" with the Asian powerhouse by taxing Chinese products.

"Whether you like it or not, the global economy is the big ocean that you cannot escape from," Chinese President Xi Jinping said last week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, laying out his plans for growth, overseas investments and expanded trade opportunities. It was the type of agenda the U.S. might have previously touted.

America's military alliances are no sure thing, either.

Trump has suggested a broad

rethink, calling NATO "obsolete" and challenging U.S. allies to bear greater cost while beefing up their military forces in the Pacific, and Russia exerts military power in Eastern Europe, which suffered for decades under Soviet domination.

It's not the only place the Kremlin is flexing its muscles. In Syria, Russia has backed more than a year of successful Syrian government offensives against rebels and is currently directing peace talks between the two sides. The U.S. was but a bystander at the negotiations Monday, while the White House said it could partner with Russia to fight the Islamic State group in Syria. Such an arrangement could significantly enhance Russia's reputation in the Middle East.

"With the election of Donald Trump, the old world of the 20th century is finally over," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier wrote in the Bild newspaper,

reflecting a broader European lament about confused international leadership and increased disorder.

Trump's push has mirrored a broader global debate about globalization vs. isolation. British Prime Minister Theresa May will visit Trump later this week, seeking cooperation from an American leader who cheered her country's vote to leave the European Union — which

■ **China isn't the only country that could profit from U.S. retrenchment. In their own ways, Russia and Germany also could stake a claim to a greater global role**

Obama campaigned against.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who once cursed Obama for the American's criticism of his country's war on drugs, has embraced Trump's "America first" approach and expressed relief the U.S. will no longer lecture others on how to behave. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, long accused of undemocratic tendencies, echoed that message, declaring "the end of multilateralism" in the age of Trump.

While China's increased economic strength and Russia's military vigor may appeal to some, few Western-looking nations will turn to either for moral leadership. Germany has tried to fill that void, embracing hundreds of thousands of refugees and championing a dwindling multilateralism 70 years after being culpable for some of history's greatest atrocities in World War II.

But Germany, Europe's economic motor, has a glaring shortcoming: An inability to match the hard power of aspiring leaders in Moscow and Beijing. And for all her efforts, German Chancellor Angela Merkel faces a tough re-election later this year, where she will find out if her Germany is immune to the new populist surge. **AP**

# China, Philippines to roll out USD3.7b in cooperation projects

**C**HINA and the Philippines have agreed on USD3.7 billion worth of projects to boost cooperation, state media cited a senior Chinese official as saying, highlighting the improvement in their formerly frosty relations.

Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said after a meeting with a Cabinet delegation from the Philippines that the projects are aimed at "improving people's living standards," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

No specific details on the projects were released, though Xinhua cites Gao as saying a formal agreement on how to implement the projects would be signed before the Philippine delegation left Beijing.

Under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in June, the Asian neighbors have seen ties that had been tense over longstanding South China Sea territorial disputes undergo rapid improvement.



Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang (right) meets with the Philippine cabinet delegation led by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, in Beijing

Duterte visited Beijing in October, during which he repeatedly criticized former colonial power and traditional ally the United States, while praising China as an Asian nation that respects Philippine sovereignty, shared its values and

understood its development needs. Philippine officials said during the visit that the two sides would sign \$13.5 billion of deals and that Xi had committed more than \$9 billion in low-interest loans to the country.

Duterte is planning another China trip in May to attend an international conference on China's project to revitalize the ancient Silk Road trade routes through vast investments in infrastructure.

Tensions ran high last year

after the Philippines won an arbitration ruling in July declaring China's maritime claims in the South China Sea invalid. China has refused to recognize the arbitration decision and has warned the United States and other countries not involved in the territorial row not to meddle in the disputes, which Beijing wants to settle through one-on-one negotiations.

In seeking to improve ties, Duterte has largely avoided mentioning the ruling and expressed his desire cooperate with China on projects in the area.

Still, the Philippine foreign secretary recently filed a rare verbal protest to China over Beijing's placing of anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons on its man-made islands in the South China Sea.

Beijing says the artificial islands are intended to boost maritime safety in the region while downplaying their military utility. They also buttress China's claim to ownership of practically the entire South China Sea.

The two sides also agreed to a "speedy resumption" of a dialogue on economic and trade cooperation, according to China Daily, a state-run newspaper. That and other bilateral talks had been frozen since 2012 amid rising tensions. **AP**

## President Xi promotes 2022 Winter Olympics with visit



**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping stressed the need for sustainability and post-event planning while on a visit to ski venues for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, underscoring the government's hopes of leveraging the games to promote winter sports among hundreds of millions of its citizens living in the country's north.

Xi's trip to Chongli in Hebei province adjoining Beijing marks the latest bid to ramp up enthusiasm for the games.

"Chongli's position should be

clearly designated and it should not be developed into some kind of large-scale metropolis with all the accoutrements. That would be the mark of failure," Xi said in remarks carried on the main national news broadcaster. "Chongli should instead be a ski destination with strong local character."

Xi also expressed concern about the future use of facilities, although growing Chinese interest in skiing and snowboarding is driving demand for such spaces.

"The post-Olympics operation

of the facilities should be considered beforehand, given that many Olympic host cities face challenges with venues left unused after the event," Xi told local officials before donning a hat and gloves to tour the course and chat with skiers."

Beijing's urban center will host indoor events such as ice hockey and figure skating, largely in venues left over from the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. However, a lack of mountains and natural snow requires that ski events be held at sports clusters in Chongli as well as Beijing's rural Yanqing county, both of which will be connected to the city center by a high-speed rail line.

A decision has not yet been announced on a possible relocation of the proposed sliding center in Yanqing for bobsled, luge and skeleton.

Beijing, not known for winter sports, could rely heavily on man-made snow for the ski and snowboard events.

Beijing was awarded the games 2015, defeating Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the voting to become the first city to have been awarded both the Summer and Winter Olympics. **AP**

## National birthrate rises after one-child policy loosened



**T**HE number of births in China has risen nearly 8 percent in the year after the government loosened its unpopular one-child policy.

China's National Health and Family Planning Commission said this week that 17.86 million children were born last year, an increase of 1.31 million from 2015. Nearly half of the children born were to couples who already had a child, the commission said.

China enacted its one-child policy in 1979 to control population growth, enforced with fines and in some cases state-mandated abortions. But it now faces a rapidly aging workforce and the prospect of not having enough younger workers to support them.

It has gradually allowed more

exemptions to the policy, such as allowing rural couples to have a second child if their first was a girl, before moving to let all married couples to have two children beginning in 2016.

The commission acknowledged that families remain reluctant to have a second child for financial reasons, with spiraling real estate costs and the intense demand for places in China's best schools driving many parents to high-priced private institutions.

An increase in births also places pressure on China's already strained health system for pregnant women. The commission said it would aim to train and hire 140,000 maternity health workers "in the coming years," according to state media reports. **AP**

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Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

# Push to save Pacific Rim trade deal after US exits TPP pact

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as promised, is prompting other member countries to seek ways to salvage the trade pact.

Leaders of some of the 11 other nations involved in the initiative said they hope to push ahead with the agreement in some form, with or without the U.S.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday he had discussed the pact's future recently with the prime ministers of Japan, Singapore and New Zealand, all TPP members, and believed the pact could survive without the U.S.

"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that," Turnbull told reporters. "But we are not about to walk away from our commitment to Australian jobs."

Trump says he favors one-on-one agreements with other nations rather than multinational pacts like the TPP, which would have included markets comprising 40 percent of world GDP and was eventually meant to be the foundation for a wider pan-Pacific trading bloc.

As expected, earlier yesterday [Macau time] the new president officially abandoned the trade deal in one of his first acts after taking office.

Advocates of the TPP said it would set a "gold standard" for modern trade rules, with stringent requirements for intellectual property, labor and environmental protections. A key goal was to lead in shaping trade rules for this century, and also to counter the growing influence of China, which is not part of the pact.

Critics said the TPP would put corporate interests ahead of public and national sovereign interests.

The U.S. about-face on the deal is a setback for leaders of other TPP countries who invested political capital in fighting to get it ratified.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Former U.S. President Barack Obama (center) takes part in the Trans-Pacific Partnership meeting at the APEC summit in Yokohama

That includes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who told lawmakers during parliamentary debate that he hoped to gain Trump's "understanding" on the TPP's importance. Abe has said he hopes to meet with Trump as soon as possible.

**As expected, the new US president officially abandoned the trade deal in one of his first acts after taking office**

Japan completed the TPP ratification process last week, well aware Trump planned to drop out. Abe said its goals were still important for Japan and the TPP could be a model for trade deals with other nations, including those in Europe.

The remaining 11 TPP members will meet to discuss the next steps, said Malaysia's Second Trade Minister Ong Ka Chuan.

"Twelve countries signed the [TPP], but now one wants out. The other 11 can continue by making change to the clauses. There are many possibilities that these 11 countries can still proceed with," the Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. He didn't elaborate.

Other TPP members are Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Vietnam and Brunei.

Turnbull said that in theory Chi-

na could join the pact following the U.S. departure. But that would require a revamp of the deal. In its current form, the TPP can only take effect after it is ratified by six countries that account for 85 percent of its members' combined gross domestic product. The U.S. made up 60 percent of the TPP's combined GDP, so it could not be implemented as it stands now.

Though he didn't suggest Trump himself would reverse his position, Turnbull did say the U.S. eventually might.

"You have to recognize that his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, has been a longtime advocate for it," Turnbull said, referring to Trump's nominee. "The Republican Party in the Congress have been strong supporters of the TPP. It is possible that U.S. policy could change over time on this, as it has done on other trade deals."

Whatever the deal's fate, the region shows no sign of retreating from the market-opening trend that helped transform its many developing nations into a relatively stable zone of affluent, middle-income economies.

New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English said he agrees with his predecessor John Key's view that the U.S. risks ceding some influence to China in the Pacific without the TPP.

English evinced little enthusiasm for the sort of "one-on-one" bilateral trade deal with the U.S. that Trump said he prefers.

"If you ask me today, I'd say there's a pretty low chance of that happening in a form that we'd find satisfactory," Prime Minister Bill English told reporters in Wellington. "But we wouldn't want to rule it out, any more than we'd want to rule out other versions of progress on free trade, with TPP or not."

Although losing the U.S. as part of the TPP means losing nearly two-thirds of its market, English said the initiative was still advantageous for New Zealand and therefore worth pursuing.

Trump's threats to impose tariffs of up to 45 percent on some imports are a big worry for most Asian countries, given the region's heavy reliance on exports. The U.S. is the largest single market for China and Japan, and indirectly a huge source of demand for many of the commodities and goods produced across the region.

"All of us are working to see how we can ensure we maintain this momentum toward open markets and free trade," Turnbull said. "Believe me, protectionism is not a ladder to get you out of the low growth trap. It is a shovel to dig it deeper." AP

INDONESIA

## Authorities probe alleged gun smuggling by peacekeeping unit

**A**UTHORITIES in Indonesia are investigating allegations of weapons smuggling by dozens of its peacekeepers who were arrested in Sudan, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Sudanese media reported on Friday that the North Darfur state administration arrested Indonesian police officers

who were suspected of trying to smuggle out 29 Kalashnikov rifles and about 70 guns in their luggage at El-Fasher airport.

Ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir said the initial information they received was that the luggage did not belong to the Indonesian police unit and the U.N. is currently conducting an investiga-

tion.

"There are a number of incongruities in the information we have received," Nasir said in a statement.

He said an Indonesian police team will leave for Sudan's capital, Khartoum, to provide legal assistance and seek clarification of the incident.

Indonesia deployed 140 officers last week to join

a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Sudan to replace the outgoing group.

National Police spokesman Martinus Sitompul said the Indonesian police officers are being held in a transit camp in Sudan.

He insisted that the luggage that contained guns did not belong to the Indonesian group, citing the chief of the Indonesian

AP PHOTO



police unit as saying it did not bear the identification stickers they use.

Two containers of luggage belonging to the Indonesians ended up next to the luggage containing the guns after the Indonesian luggage had been

scanned by U.N. security forces, Sitompul said.

Indonesia has bolstered its contribution to international peacekeeping since 2006 after decades of very limited involvement under the Suharto dictatorship. AP



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# UK Government loses Brexit case, must consult Parliament

Danica Kirka, London

**B**RTAIN'S government must get parliamentary approval before starting the process of leaving the European Union, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday, potentially delaying Prime Minister Theresa May's plans to trigger negotiations by the end of March.

The ruling forces the government to put a bill before Parliament, giving pro-EU politicians a chance to soften the terms of Brexit — Britain's exit from the EU. "Leave" campaigners had objected, saying Parliament shouldn't have the power to overrule the electorate, which voted to leave the bloc in a June 23 referendum.

May had said she would use centuries-old powers known as royal prerogative to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty and launch two years of exit talks. The powers — traditionally held by the monarch — permit decisions about treaties and other issues to be made without a vote of Parliament.

"The referendum is of great political significance, but the act of Parliament which established it did not say what should happen as a result, so any change in the law to give effect to the referendum must be made in the only way permitted by the U.K. Constitution, namely by an act of Parliament," the president of the Supreme Court David Neuberger said in reading the judgement.

"To proceed otherwise would be a breach of settled constitutional principles stretching back many centuries," he said.

The case was considered the most important constitutional issue in a generation, clarifying who ultimately wields power in Britain's system of government: the prime minister and her Cabinet, or Parliament.

Financial entrepreneur Gina Miller sued to force the government to seek Parliamentary approval before invoking Article 50. Leaving the EU will change the fundamental rights of citizens and this can't be done without a vote of lawmakers, she argued.

May had argued the referendum gave her a mandate to take Britain out of the 28-nation bloc and that discussing the details of her strategy with Parliament would weaken the government's negotiating position.

Significantly, the court also ruled that parts of the United Kingdom — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — do not need to be consulted. Had the court ruled that the "devolved" Parliaments needed a say, a significant delay to the process would have been likely as



Britain's Attorney General Jeremy Wright (center) arrives at the Supreme Court in London

lawmakers from the regions piled in with concerns.

The decision doesn't mean that Britain will remain in the EU. But it could delay the process.

The government moved quickly

to say it would offer its plans in detail to the House of Commons. Legal experts suggest that May will try to keep the scope of the legislation narrow — focusing solely on triggering Article 50 — in order to

limit the chance for amendments that could delay a vote.

But opposition became evident immediately. Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the party would seek to amend the legislation to make sure the government is "accountable." The Scottish National Party, the third largest party in the House of Commons, promised to offer 50 amendments.

"Today's result comes as a surprise to no one. Unfortunately for businesses and other institutions, Brexit still means uncertainty," said Phillip Souta, head of U.K. public policy at law firm Clifford Chance. "Parliament remains divided and the outcome of the negotiations remain unknown."

The bill could also be subject to delay in the unelected House of Lords.

"Defeat in the House of Lords would not stop Brexit from happening, but it could delay it until mid-2020," Souta said.

Miller, an online investment manager, had argued the case wasn't about blocking Brexit. Instead, she said, it was about "democracy" and the "dangerous precedent" that a government can overrule Parliament.

For Miller, the 8-3 verdict from the Supreme Court judges brought

vindication after months of threats to her security that followed her involvement in the case.

"No prime minister, no government can expect to be unanswerable or unchallenged," she said. "Parliament alone is sovereign."

The case revolved around an argument that dates back almost 400 years to the English Civil War as to whether power ultimately rests in the executive or Parliament.

**Any change in the law to give effect to the referendum must be made in the only way permitted by the UK Constitution, namely by an act of Parliament.**

DAVID NEUBERGER  
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT

Underscoring the importance of the case, May put Attorney General Jeremy Wright in charge of the legal team fighting the suit. Wright had argued the suit is an attempt to put a legal obstacle in the way of enacting the referendum result. **AP**

## FAQ

### What the Supreme Court ruling means for Brexit

**B**RTAIN'S Supreme Court ruling is a setback for Prime Minister Theresa May's plan to start the process by the end of March, but government officials say they can still meet the timetable.

Some fundamental questions and answers about the decision:

#### DOES THIS RULING MEAN THE PROCESS WILL STOP?

The June 23 referendum vote that produced majority support for leaving the EU has changed minds in Parliament because members don't want to be seen as thwarting the will of the people, making it very unlikely Parliament will stop Brexit in its tracks.

The majority Conservative Party favors the move out of the EU, and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has said the opposition party's

lawmakers will back the process, although some have rejected his call to do so.

Corbyn indicated that Labour would seek to amend the bill the government proposes, and the Scottish National Party said it would introduce around 50 amendments. There is scattered opposition, but Parliament is expected to endorse the government's proposal.

It isn't clear, however, if the government will get approval as quickly as it wants. Extended debates, and amendments, could slow things down.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The government will now seek a vote in Parliament authorizing the use of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which would start the two-year process of removing Britain from the 28-nation EU.

Ministers had already dra-



Justices of the Supreme Court of the UK who yesterday ruled on the Article 50 case

fted several possible pieces of legislation in anticipation of losing the Supreme Court case, which upheld a lower court ruling.

The government could submit legislation this week and seek quick passage of a bill. May has sought to reassure Parliament by stating that legislators will be given a chance to vote on Brexit at the end of the negotiation process when there is a proposed agreement with the EU.

Vocal opponents of Brexit will certainly be given the time to make their case in Parliament, but it will be difficult to sway legislators who feel bound by the referendum results.

#### WAS THE RULING A TOTAL LOSS FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

No. The government was able to convince the Supreme Court that the Scottish Parliament and the legislatures in Northern Ireland and Wales won't be given a direct say in the process.

Ministers had feared that giving the Scottish Parliament or the Northern Ireland Assembly a direct role might have slowed the process considerably given political uncertainty in Northern Ireland and strong opposition to Brexit in Scotland.

The decision allows May and her senior team to focus solely on the British Parliament. **AP**

## what's ON

**MACAO STORYBOARD - A REMINISCENT COLLECTION BY DIXON LEI**  
**TIME:** 11am-7pm (Closed on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** January 30, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2893 3339

**LEONG WAN SI ART EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** February 2, 2017  
**VENUE:** 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, no.10  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 4582

**BROADCASTER LEONG SONG FONG - 33 YEARS IN RADIO**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** February 5, 2017  
**VENUE:** Jao Tsung-I Academy, Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, no. 95 C-D  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2859 2919

**MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION**  
**TIME:** 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)  
**VENUE:** Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane  
**ADMISSION:** MOP10  
**ENQUIRIES:** Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

**TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP**  
**TIME:** 10:30am-7pm daily (Closed on the first Monday of every month)  
**VENUE:** No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 7911

**THE STAMP FESTIVAL**  
**TIME:** 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5:00 pm), closed on public holidays  
**UNTIL:** April 7, 2017  
**VENUE:** Communication Museum of Macao / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7  
**ADMISSION:** MOP10  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

## Offbeat

## FORMER EMPLOYEE WHO TOOK VIENNA TRAM FOR JOYRIDE APPREHENDED

Vienna public transit authorities have found the man who went for a joyride with a Vienna street car. But they still don't know why.

The Vienna Lines transport authority says the culprit is a former employee who was dismissed some time ago. And police spokeswoman Irina Steirer says the 36-year-old has confessed to nabbing the tram.

But Steirer said yesterday the suspect has given no motive other than acting on impulse.

The former trolley driver was apprehended Sunday, a day after unlocking the empty tram's door while the driver was making a rest-room stop, and then apparently sprinting away once transit officials brought the tram to a halt after less than two stops by turning off the electricity.

The man is not being identified due to Austrian confidentiality laws.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Happy Endings Sr.2
17:40	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:20	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:40	Tough Justice Texas Style
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

23 -25JAN

## ARRIVAL

**ROOM 1**  
**2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm**  
**Director:** Denis Villeneuve  
**Starring:** Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 116min

## A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

**ROOM 2**  
**2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm**  
**Director:** Roger Spottiswoode  
**Starring:** Luke Treadaway, Joanne Froggatt, Ruta Gedmintas  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 103min

## 10000 MILES

**ROOM 3**  
**2:30, 9:30pm**  
**Director:** Simon Hung  
**Starring:** Yuan Huang, Megan Lai, Darren Wang  
**Language:** Mandarin (Cantonese, English)  
**Duration:** 103min



## SING

**ROOM 3**  
**4:30, 7:30pm**  
**Director:** Garth Jennings  
**Starring:** Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane  
**Language:** Cantonese (English)  
**Duration:** 108min

## MACAU TOWER

19 JAN - 27 JAN



## ARRIVAL

**2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm**  
**Director:** Denis Villeneuve  
**Starring:** Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 116min

## this day in history



## 1958 HISTORIC SHEERNESS DOCKS TO CLOSE

The government has announced the closure of one of the oldest naval dockyards in the UK.

All 2,500 jobs at Sheerness Docks on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent are in jeopardy.

The first ever secretary of the Admiralty, Samuel Pepys, established the dockyard in the 17th century as an extension to the Royal Navy headquarters in nearby Chatham.

The former mayor of Rochester - the nearest city - and President of the Medway Towns Trades Council reported one of his councillors saying, "Pepys would turn in his grave".

One dockworker said: "I'll have to leave, there's nothing else here."

Members of Sheerness Urban District Council say they are concerned about the future of the town and repaying debts for their massive re-building and slum-clearance programme.

The Council has already telegraphed Prime Minister Harold Macmillan about delaying the closure until its future use has been decided and alternative industries have been developed.

Sheerness Co-operative Society - one of the oldest in the country - is also under threat.

The co-op's managing secretary said: "My society does 50% of its trade with dockyard employees and officials and naturally a large part of our trade will be affected. At the moment we're doing a quarter of a million pound trade annually, so you can work that one out."

The port facilities at Chatham are also likely to be affected as the Admiralty withdraws its headquarters and shuts down the Royal Navy barracks there.

Chatham has an even longer history than Sheerness and Lord Nelson's famous ship, Victory, was built there.

The impact of losing the 5,000 sailors from the barracks will be felt in all the surrounding Medway towns.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Redundancies at Sheerness were spread over several months until the naval dockyards closed permanently in March 1960. It was taken over by the Medway Port Authority and by 2002 was the largest port for motor imports in the UK. Chatham continued as a naval dockyard until it closed in 1984 when the site became a naval museum.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Someone close to you may try to manipulate you, but that doesn't mean they'll get away with it - or that you'll even let them get close.

Taurus April 20-May 20
Everyone's had the experience of being infatuated, and everyone's known the mixed feelings that involves.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
There's nothing but fire in the air - well, that and a little bit of intrigue, which makes quite the exciting combination for someone as curious as you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Here we go with the 'If you loved me, you would' thing. You hate it, and you've tried to make it clear that you're not going to fall for it ever again.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
This won't be a boring day. In fact, it'll be close to a nine, on a scale of one to ten.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
For the next 24 hours, each and every syllable you utter will be meaningful, accurate and to the point - so whoever asks for your opinion will absolutely hear it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You're an expert when it comes to reading people. You know what they're up to before they do, just by listening to the tone of their voices and watching their eyes.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You pride yourself on being a master judge of character. At the moment, however, your talents in that department aren't quite fully operational.

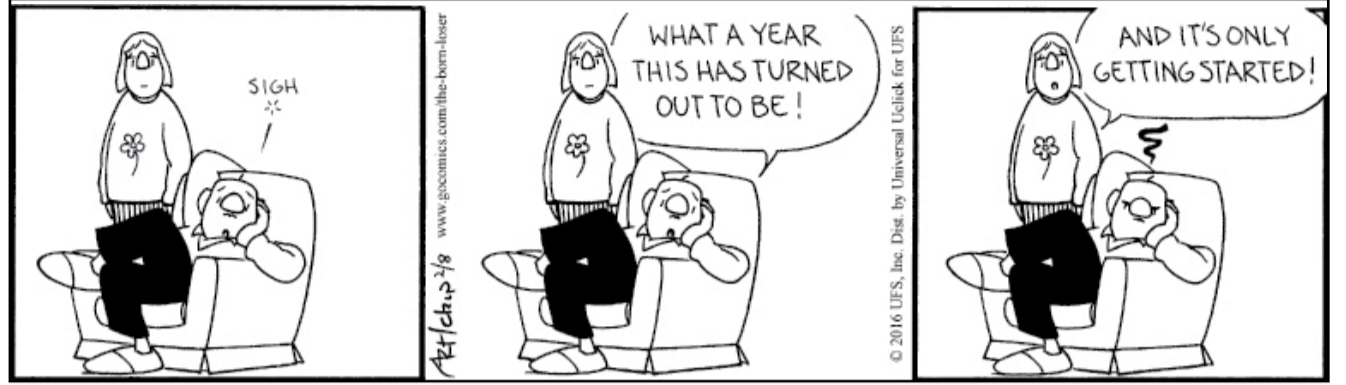
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
One more day of hiding out from the world, and you'll be back in the mood for your usual gig - putting even the most accomplished social butterfly to shame.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
When it comes to the world at large, you've always been able to smile and have them thinking that you're on the same page, whether or not that happens to be true.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're feeling benevolent, generous and extremely charitable toward your fellows. So no matter what anyone needs, you'll be only too happy to do whatever you can to help.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
If anyone needs a vacation, it's you. You've been working hard nonstop, both physically and emotionally.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8 4 3
4 9 6 1
2 6 5
9 7 5 6
3 4 2
4 7 5
1 3 8 2
8 9 1

Easy+

7 1 5
5 2
7 9 5 3
8 2 7 3
1 2
4 5 9 1
3 9 4 7
6 3
2 7 6

Medium

2 1 5 7 9
5 2
9 7
4 6 9
9 6 1 2 5
8 1 5
3 6
1 4
9 7 4 1 3

Hard

3 1 6
4 2
3
5 9 8
1 3
4 5
1 6
7 2

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Easy \_\_\_; 6- Milky gem; 10- Great quantity; 14- Highway stop; 15-Trick; 16- River in central Switzerland; 17- Unconventional; 18- Little rascals; 19- Cambodian currency; 20- Indonesian volcano; 22- Attitude; 24- Opposite of odd, especially when applied to numbers; 25- Fair-haired kid; 26- Hot; 29- Author Morrison; 30- Mata \_\_\_; 31- Sin; 37- Aboriginal Alaskan; 39- \_\_\_-Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 40- Male and female; 41- Wrestling hold; 44- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb; 45- \_\_\_-do-well; 46- Hams it up; 48- Books of maps; 52- On \_\_\_ with; 53- Reduce; 54- Modern; 58- Jacob's first wife; 59- Yarn; 61- One in a cab, say; 62- Start the pot; 63- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 64- Grenoble's river; 65- Soviet news agency; 66- Hwys.; 67- Paces;

DOWN: 1- One way to run; 2- Tart; 3- \_\_\_ girl; 4- Transuranic element; 5- Adhere closely; 6- Rigel's constellation; 7- Cougar; 8- Snake; 9- Teachings; 10- Mother of Isaac; 11- The \_\_\_ Mutiny; 12- Betel palm; 13- Struck out; 21- Portable shelter; 23- Tiny branches; 25- Medicine; 26- He ran from Iran; 27- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 28- Utah city; 29- Small drum; 32- Actor's parts; 33- Person in charge of recording sound; 34- Way out; 35- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 36- Concordes; 38- High-strung; 42- Go in again; 43- Held on to; 47- New Zealand natives; 48- \_\_\_ once; 49- "Lovergirl" singer \_\_\_ Marie; 50- Atty.-to-be exams; 51- Barbecue leftovers?; 52- Copycats; 54- Peter Fonda role; 55- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 56- Maryland athlete, for short; 57- "\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit; 60- Picnic crasher;



WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

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## TENNIS

# Confident Vandeweghe on strong run at Australian Open

Justin Bergman, Melbourne

**O**N the court, Coco Vandeweghe is all bluster and brava-do, an all-or-nothing ball striker with a booming forehand who compares herself to a freight train and shrugs (literally) when she upsets the top player in the world.

Vandeweghe has marched through the Australian Open draw with such confidence, in fact, it's hard to believe she'd ever be intimidated on court.

Yet, after handily beating former French Open champion Garbine Muguruza 6-4, 6-0 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal yesterday, Vandeweghe admitted being quite nervous. If so, she hid it well — and handled the pressure with remarkable poise.

"Maybe I play better nervous and scared," she said. "I think I don't shy away from a challenge necessarily. I never have. Growing up, I've always just been wanting to prove people wrong."

The 25-year-old Vandeweghe, the niece of former NBA player Kiki Vandeweghe and daughter of an Olympic swimmer, has always had the kind of power game to compete with the top players in the game. She won the U.S. Open junior title in 2008 and blas-



ted her way to the quarterfinals of Wimbledon two years ago.

She also has a surprising 6-1 record against top 10 players in the past year — better than Serena Williams' 5-3 mark.

But where Vandeweghe has struggled in the past is with her consistency. She fell in the first round nine times last season and finished the year on a four-match losing streak. The week before the Austra-

lian Open, she lost to 103rd-ranked Duan Yingying in Sydney in straight sets.

Her temper has also been an issue. She throws a lot of rackets and berates herself. "I try and behave the best, but it's a work in progress," she said.

Coming into the new year, Vandeweghe decided she needed a new mindset. And it's apparently been paying off.

"When you play tough

players like you will in later rounds of tournaments, you can't be showing that you're struggling or not feeling confident in yourself," Vandeweghe said after her 6-2, 6-3 upset of top seed and defending champion Angelique Kerber in the fourth round.

"At least, that's what I decided to tell myself this year [...] because I was lacking in confidence in certain tournaments and certain stages. I mean,

last year I came here and I didn't even win a match, so here I am now."

The numbers in her last two matches show a more composed player: 30 winners, 20 unforced errors against Kerber, 31 winners, 20 unforced errors against Muguruza. She was broken just once (to Kerber). And against, Muguruza she only lost 10 points in the second set.

**■ Coco Vandeweghe faces Venus Williams for a spot in the final, and as she's made clear, she's not afraid of anybody**

"So many weapons, so many places to hurt you with," former top-10 player Mary Joe Fernandez said while commenting her match against Muguruza for ESPN. "She put a pretty good thrashing on Kerber, too. This type of tennis will beat anyone."

Now, Vandeweghe faces Venus Williams for a spot in the final, and as she's made clear in Melbourne, she's not afraid of anybody.

"It's just another person that's in front of me, whoever it may be, if it's No. 1 in the world, No. 130 in the world," she said. "It doesn't matter, it's still an opponent to get in my way of achieving my goals." **AP**

**T**HE club that will host the 2020 Olympic golf tournament would be open to changing its policy to include women as full members, if asked.

The Kasumigaseki Country Club came under scrutiny recently when the International Olympic Committee inquired about the club's membership practice. The issue surfaced in mid-January when Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike urged Kasumigaseki to admit women as full members.

Tokyo Olympic organizers also said they would review the practice.

Kasumigaseki general manager Hiroshi Imaizumi told The Associated Press yesterday that the club is currently preparing to provide an explanation

## GOLF

## 2020 Olympic course open to reviewing membership policy



to the IOC and International Golf Federation that its membership policy excludes wo-

men from fully-fledged membership but not from playing or other types of membership.

He said the club has no immediate plan to make changes to the practice because the IOC has not asked it to do so.

If requested, the club said it is open to reviewing its policy for a change and would seek consensus from its more than 1,000 full members, though it may take some time, Imaizumi said.

Founded in 1929 as a private club funded by about 300 wealthy men, Kasumigaseki is one of the oldest and most prestigious clubs in the country and has

hosted more top level tournaments than any other Japanese course.

Within few years of the opening, the club started accepting female players and has since also added junior members, a move seen as female friendly in the relatively conservative sport of golf.

The Japan Golf Association said there are a number of Japanese clubs that still bar women from playing.

The club has not received any complaints from its members about the policy, but if the membership practi-

ce is seen as problematic, changing the rule is a possibility in the future, Imaizumi said.

"We have always believed our policy has been very open, so we were caught by surprise," Imaizumi said, referring to the recent media attention over the club's membership policy. "We welcome all female players and we have no intention of creating a gender barrier."

To join Kasumigaseki, an applicant needs to obtain a reference from a current member and pay 8 million yen (USD70,800) to become a regular member first, then pay additional 4 million yen (\$35,400) to be a full member.

Only full members can play any day of the week. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



SOLAR ENERGY AND DEVELOPING THE ENERGY SECTOR

As readers probably know, I have a strong interest in “green” technologies. I remember reading that “the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE) has disclosed its intention to regulate the technical requirements of solar power installations, thus promoting its application in Macau”, in a Macau Daily Times article on January 14 2014. These efforts seem to have resulted in absolutely no progress over the last three years!

I have great misgivings in focusing on specific technologies when setting public energy policy, but I am nonetheless very disappointed at the total lack of progress in promoting the use of solar energy in Macau.

To me, public policy related to the energy sector should start with identifying our community goals for this part of the economy, and this should lead to technology neutral strategies for development. Again and again, governments all round the world have proven very poor at picking technological “winners” - provided the appropriate conditions are set, markets are much better at facilitating the emergence of the “best” technologies.

When I consider our community needs for the energy sector, I believe that general goals like “maximizing community quality of life through the effective use of energy, while minimizing the social, economic and environmental costs of the energy consumed” are most appropriate. In Macau, the major uses of energy are for transportation and for conditioning the built environment (air-conditioning, lighting, etc. in private and public buildings).

In a compact city like Macau, when I think of improving transportation, I am first drawn to pedestrianization of spaces so that people walk more - exercise improves general community health levels, while at the same time reducing vehicle fuel consumption and the associated pollution. Then, I think about encouraging the use of low fuel-cost/pollution vehicles, like bicycles and electric public transport and other vehicles to further reduce fuel costs and pollution.

Similarly, when I think about improving buildings in Macau, I am first drawn to changing the building regulations to encourage “green” buildings so that a building’s positioning on its site and the building structures minimize the need for expensive air-conditioning and similar systems - these ideas are well established in Europe and North America, and are beginning to be adopted in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia.

The next most important issue in my view is energy generation and distribution. Practically, the overall energy generation and distribution system is most robust and reliable, energy is wasted least, and capacity can be most economically added when you have a distributed network of smaller heat and power generators that use minimal fuel and produce minimal pollution. A distributed network of small combined heat and power generators is more efficient than a single large power station because small building based electricity generators can use the waste heat for boiling water for local use whereas this heat/energy is mostly wasted in large power stations.

Flexibility in local renewable energy “harvesting” is crucial. For example, many people advocate using photovoltaic panels. But to make hot water, it is much more efficient to use solar thermal panels to directly heat water than to use photovoltaic panels to make electricity and then use the electricity to heat water. Solar thermal panels capture 90+ percent of the energy in the incident sunlight, while photovoltaic panels only capture 20+ percent of the energy, so to heat the same volume of water you need four times the surface area of expensive photovoltaic panels as you would need of much cheaper solar thermal panels.

I am very happy that the Macau government is thinking about energy policy, but progress seems to be largely non-existent. This is not good enough.

THE BUZZ EGYPT’S EL-SISSI SAYS HE IS ALARMED BY HIGH DIVORCE RATES

Egypt’s president says he is alarmed by his country’s high divorce rates and is suggesting ground-breaking legislation to ban Muslim husbands from verbally declaring their spouses divorced.

In a televised address, President Abdel-Fatteh el-Sissi said he has recently learned that 40 percent of Egypt’s 900,000 annual marriages end in divorce after five years.

He suggested that legislation should be adopted so a divorce would be legal only if it is done in the presence of a “maazoun,” a cleric authorized by the government to administer marriage and divorce.

Some couples already do that, but many husbands also divorce verbally – often in the heat of an argument – before later documenting the divorce.

Oscars go gaga for ‘La La Land’ with record-tying 14 nods

THE candy-colored love letter to musicals “La La Land” last night landed a record-tying 14 nominations to the Academy Awards, which fielded a notably more diverse list of nominees following two straight years of “Oscars-SoWhite” backlash.

“La La Land” matched “Titanic” and “All About Eve” for most nominations ever, earning nods for best picture, stars Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, its jazz-infused songs and its 32-year-old writer-director, Damien Chazelle.

“I’m in Beijing right now. This only adds to the disorientation,” Chazelle said by phone. “All that I have in my head is ‘thank you’ a million times over.”

Nine films out of a possible ten were nominated for best picture. The others were: “Moonlight,” “Arrival,” “Manchester by the Sea,” “Hell or High Water,” “Lion,” “Fences,” “Hidden Figures” and “Hacksaw Ridge.”

Barry Jenkins’ luminous coming-of-age portrait “Moonlight,” nominated for eight awards, Denzel Washington’s fiery August Wilson adaption “Fences” and Theodore Melfi’s crowd-pleasing African American mathematician drama, “Hidden Figures,” insured that for now, at least, “OscarSoWhite” wasn’t trending on nominations morning. After two straight years of all-white acting nominees, seven people of color were among the 20 actors nominated yesterday.

Jenkins, who was nominated for his directing and screenplay, said the nominations for “Moonlight” and other films showed that people were eager to put themselves in the shoes of others.

“I love the American film industry and to see it this year, I feel, really reflect the world that we all live and work in, it gives me hope,” Jenkins said by phone from Amsterdam. “It heartens me. There’s a lot of work being done to make this year not be an anomaly.”

The biggest surprise of the morning was the strong boost of support for Mel

Gibson, who had long been shunned in Hollywood since an anti-Semitic tirade while being arrested for drunk driving in 2006 and a 2011 conviction for domestic violence. Not only did his World War II drama “Hacksaw Ridge” land a best picture nod, but Gibson scored an unexpected best director nomination.

Denis Villeneuve’s cerebral science fiction thriller “Arrival” tied “Moonlight” for the second most nominees with eight nods. Yet Amy Adams, the five-time nominated star of “Arrival,” was left out of the competitive best actress nominees.

Meryl Streep, who President Donald Trump recently derided as “overrated,” landed her 20th nomination. Her performance in “Florence Foster Jenkins” was among the best actress nominees that included Stone, Natalie Portman (“Jackie”), Ruth Negga (“Loving”) and Isabelle Huppert (“Elle”). Beside Adams, also left out was Annette Bening for “20th Century Women.”

The nominees for best actor were: Gosling, Casey Affleck (“Manchester by the Sea”), Andrew Garfield (“Hacksaw Ridge”), Viggo Mortensen (“Captain Fantastic”) and Washington (“Fences”).

Nominated for best supporting actor were: Mahershala Ali (“Moonlight”), Jeff Bridges (“Hell or High Water”), Michael Shannon (“Nocturnal Animals”), Lucas Hedges (“Manchester by the Sea”) and Dev Patel (“Lion”).

Viola Davis, the supporting actress favorite for her performance in “Fences,” notched the expected nomination. Also up for the category are Naomi Harris (“Moonlight”), Nicole Kidman (“Lion”), Octavia Spencer (“Hidden Figures”) and Michelle Williams (“Manchester by the Sea”).

Whether fairly or not, the nominations were seen as a test for the revamped film academy. It’s the first Oscars voted on since academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs ushered in new membership rules and added 683 new mem-



La La Land



Hacksaw Ridge



Hidden Figures



Hell or High Water



Manchester By The Sea



Moonlight

bers as a way to diversify a predominantly white, male and elderly group, which now numbers 6,687.

Progress could be seen in other categories as well. Joi McMillon, who edited “Moonlight” with Nat Sanders, became the first African-American woman nominated for best editing. Bradford Young of “Arrival” was just the second black cinematographer nominated.

The Oscars also rejiggered its nominations format. Instead of announcing nominees live in Los Angeles, pre-produced videos of previous winners introduced each category. The announcement was live-streamed on Oscars.com. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	☹️

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA** Authorities are investigating allegations of weapons smuggling by dozens of its peacekeepers who were arrested in Sudan. More on p13

**AFGHANISTAN** A Defense Ministry official says the Taliban have launched nearly 19,000 attacks throughout the country in the last 10 months. By comparison the Afghan National Security Forces carried out roughly 700 counter-insurgency operations during the same period.



**KYRGYZSTAN** A court upholds a life sentence for a ethnic Uzbek journalist ethnic Uzbek journalist Azimzhan Askarov (pictured) in a case that has drawn international criticism.



**KASHMIR** Three militants are killed in two gunbattles with government forces in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, the Indian army says.



**MIDDLE EAST** Syria talks in Kazakhstan between the Damascus government and rebel factions have conclude with Russia, Turkey and Iran striking a deal on a three-way mechanism to consolidate the country’s nearly month-old cease-fire. Kazakhstan’s foreign minister, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, read out a statement saying the three countries will use their “influence” to strengthen the truce.

**TOKYO 2020** The course that will host the 2020 Olympic golf tournament says it is open to changing its membership policy to include women. The Kasumigaseki Country Club came under scrutiny recently when the International Olympic Committee inquired about the club’s membership practice. More on p19